

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE WESTERN DISTRICT OF TENNESSEE
WESTERN DIVISION

STEVEN ALAN HUGHES,)	
)	
Plaintiff,)	
)	
VS.)	No. 14-2502-JDT-cgc
)	
JOHNSON & JOHNSON, ET AL.,)	
)	
Defendants.)	

ORDER DISMISSING COMPLAINT WITH PREJUDICE,
CERTIFYING AN APPEAL WOULD NOT BE TAKEN IN GOOD FAITH, AND
NOTIFYING PLAINTIFF OF APPELLATE FILING FEE

On June 27, 2014, Plaintiff, Steven Alan Hughes, RNI Number 247143, an inmate at the Shelby County Correctional Center in Memphis, Tennessee, filed a *pro se* complaint pursuant to 42 U.S.C. § 1983, accompanied by a motion seeking leave to proceed *in forma pauperis*. (ECF Nos. 1 & 2.) In an order issued on June 30, 2014, the Court granted leave to proceed *in forma pauperis* and assessed the civil filing fee pursuant to the Prison Litigation Reform Act (“PLRA”), 28 U.S.C. §§ 1915(a)-(b). (ECF No. 4.) On October 17, 2014, the Court dismissed the complaint for failure to state a claim, granted leave to amend to correct the deficiencies identified in that order, and directed that any amendment must be filed within twenty-eight days. (ECF No. 9.) The Court subsequently extended Plaintiff’s time to file his amendment to and including December 19, 2014. (ECF No. 11.)

Plaintiff has not filed his amended complaint, and the time within which to do so has expired. Therefore, the Court DISMISSES the action WITH PREJUDICE for failure to state a claim on which relief may be granted, pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §§ 1915(e)(2)(B)(ii) and 1915A(b)(1).

Pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1915(a)(3), the Court must also consider whether an appeal by Plaintiff in this case would be taken in good faith. The good faith standard is an objective one. *Coppedge v. United States*, 369 U.S. 438, 445 (1962). The test for whether an appeal is taken in good faith is whether the litigant seeks appellate review of any issue that is not frivolous. *Id.* It would be inconsistent for a district court to determine that a complaint should be dismissed prior to service on the Defendants, but has sufficient merit to support an appeal *in forma pauperis*. See *Williams v. Kullman*, 722 F.2d 1048, 1050 n.1 (2d Cir. 1983). The same considerations that lead the Court to dismiss this case for failure to state a claim also compel the conclusion that an appeal would not be taken in good faith.

Therefore, it is CERTIFIED, pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1915(a)(3), that any appeal in this matter by Plaintiff would not be taken in good faith.

The Court must also address the assessment of the \$505 appellate filing fee if Plaintiff nevertheless appeals the dismissal of this case. A certification that an appeal is not taken in good faith does not affect an indigent prisoner plaintiff's ability to take advantage of the installment procedures contained in § 1915(b). See *McGore v. Wigglesworth*, 114 F.3d 601, 610-11 (6th Cir. 1997), *partially overruled on other grounds by LaFountain v. Harry*, 716 F.3d 944, 951 (6th Cir. 2013). *McGore* sets out specific procedures for implementing the

PLRA. Therefore, the Plaintiff is instructed that if he wishes to take advantage of the PLRA's installment procedures for paying the appellate filing fee, he must comply with the procedures set out in *McGore* and § 1915(a)(2) by filing an updated *in forma pauperis* affidavit and a current, certified copy of his inmate trust account for the six months immediately preceding the filing of the notice of appeal.

For analysis under 28 U.S.C. § 1915(g) of future filings, if any, by Plaintiff, this is the second dismissal of one of his cases as frivolous or for failure to state a claim.¹ This "strike" shall take effect when judgment is entered. *Coleman v. Tollefson*, 733 F.3d 175, 177-78 (6th Cir. 2013), *cert. granted*, 135 S. Ct. 43 (2014) (Nos. 13-1333, 13A985).

The Clerk is directed to prepare a judgment.

IT IS SO ORDERED.

s/ **James D. Todd**
JAMES D. TODD
UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE

¹ Plaintiff previously filed *Hughes v. Correct Care Solutions*, No. 2:12-cv-02403-JDT-dkv (W.D. Tenn. Feb. 6, 2013) (dismissed for failure to state a claim).